

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00940 071112Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05
NSCE-00 L-01 SP-02 DODE-00 PM-03 /046 W
-----071153Z 096057 /50

R 070722Z JUN 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4645
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0940

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR IZ
SUBJECT: FRENCH RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 880

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBER OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS TELLS ME THAT
SENIOR FRENCH INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL RECENTLY VISITED
BAGHDAD IN EFFORT TO BREAK CURRENT IMPASSE IN FRENCH-
IRAQI RELATIONS. OFFICIAL ARRIVED WITHOUT FOREKNOWLEDGE
OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND MET WITH DIRECTOR OF IRAQI INTELLIGENCE.
ONE RESULT OF MEETING IS REPORTED TO BE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE
FOR VISIT OF HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH OFFICIAL, PERHAPS PRIME
MINISTER BARRE, TO MEET WITH IRAQI STRONGMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN
BEFORE END OF CURRENT MONTH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN
SEEKING AUDIENCE WITH HUSSEIN FOR SOME TIME, WITHOUT SUCCESS.

2. COMMENT: SADDAM HUSSEIN VALUED HIGHLY THE PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WHICH HE BELIEVED HE HAD ESTABLISHED WITH
FORMER FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND MAY HOPE TO
DUPLICATE IT WITH BARRE OR FOREIGN MINISTER DE
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GUIRINGAUD. REPORT IN PARA ONE IS PLAUSIBLE IN VIEW
OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S GREAT RELUCTANCE TO MEET AMBASSADORS
AND HIS APPARENT DESIRE TO DEVELOP OPTIONS OTHER THAN
SOVIET UNION FOR SUPPLY OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
FRANCE HAS BEST POLITICAL CREDENTIALS HERE OF ANY
WESTERN POWER.
MACK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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